

This is BILK # 54, July 1993 - Editor: Ulrich Magin, Hohenheimer Str. 60, 73770 Denkendorf, Germany. Subs are DM 15 for Germany and Europe and DM 20 for the rest of the world.

PLEASE NOTE: FROM JULY 1, MY POSTAL CODE WILL BE 73770. ALSO, LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MY MUTTERSTADT ADDRESS WILL NO LONGER REACH ME. WE HAD A POSTAL REFORM HERE; AND POSTAL SERVICES NO LONGER SEND LETTERS TO A NEW ADDRESS!

#### BEHEMOTH

● Loch Ness: Amateur video taken of Loch Ness monster on August 17, 1992 - was it a wake or an unidentified creature (Strange 11, p. 32). "Large, unidentified sonar target in LOch Ness" (Janet Bord, in Strange 11, p.41). "Dozens of blocks, laid out in a Z-shaped formation running from Foyers towards Fort Augustus, across the loch and down the Drumnadrochit side, were found by scientists working with Project Urquhart last summer", reports the Inverness Courier (April 20, 1993). The objects, discovered by sonar, were at first thought to be targets for sonar practise, but later letters in the Courier (May 5) suggest they might be mines dumped into the loch after the end of World War I. (Credit for clippings: Andreas Trottmann) In 1950, mines in the loch had been suggested as explanation for Nessie sightings.

#### ISIS:

- Croc Boy: In an Egyptian sarcophagos in Turkey's Topkapi Palace, the mummy of a bizarre creature, half boy, half crocodile, was found last year (I had an item on it in Bilk where I suggested it was a Jenny Haniver, representing a sea god). Now, the ancient-astronauts magazine Explorer (published in Ludwigshafen, Germany), in 1/1993, p.15, has the first photograph that I have seen of the mysterious beast - the drawing to the left is based on the xeroxed photo in the magazine. The croc-boy, as you can see, consists of the head of a crocodile and that of a boy - a very strange mixture which probably led to the theory that it is the mummy of a boy eaten by a crocodile. "Explorer", by the way, thinks the mummy could preseve a genetic engineering result by ancient astronauts!
- Bibliography: submarine humanoid creatures of South American folklore, compared to UFO-creatures, see Fabio Picasso, in Strange 11, p.19; for the unlikely possibility of the existance of an unidentified species of sirenian at St. Helena, see Strange 11, p.25 (article by Karl PN Shuker).



#### LEVIATHAN

● Bibliography: Sea serpent at Orkney in 1808 and 1940s - see Strange 11, p.32. These sightings and strandings were most likely due to basking sharks. Tauchen, April 1992, p.6, had an article on an expedition after basking skarks off Cornwall, while Bild (Stuttgart, June 15, 1993) reports that a shoal of 40 basking sharks has been observed in the Baltic off Sweden. Strange egg found on West Australian coast and believed to be from a Aegyornis, in Madagascar, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, March 23, 1993, p. 9

#### USO

● More on the highly suspect Linda Napolitano (aka Cortile) abduction case, discovered by Budd Hopkins, in which Lady Linda claims she's been abducted by aliens and carried underwater into the East River, New York, where she met Perez de Cuellar, and more such incredible things. Journal für UFO-Forschung 2/1993, p. 16-22 (article by Hans-Werner Peiniger, highly critical) and Independent Science, 3/1993, p.20-29 (by Marc Theobald, more positive). In the JUFOf, there is also further criticism to the Gulf Breeze, Florida, case, where many UFOs have been seen over the sea, but have been identified as signal lights carried by ballons (p. 24-26)

#### CRYPTOZOLOGY

● New discoveries: A number of discoveries of previously unknown species has been reported by the press. Two students of biology from Cologne, Germany, have discovered the world's smallest frog while in Madagascar. According to a

press release by Cologne University, the dark brown amphibium, when grown up, measures only 12 mm and weighs less than a quarter of a gramme (Die Rheinpfalz, May 12, 1993). Also, a large unidentified animal similar to a goat with sharp 50 cm horns has been discovered in a mountain valley in Northern Vietnam. Zoologists from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) found physical evidence for the animal, which nobody has seen alive, on an expedition to the Vo-Quang-Reservate on the border to Laos. The zoologists found skulls, bones, the hoofs and several complete pelts. The animal has been christened Vu Quang Oryx (Die Rheinpfalz, March 30, 1993; Eßlinger Zeitung, March 30, 1993, p.17). More on the supposed sightings of still living moas in New Zealand, see Strange 11, p.28, and the new German "Magazin für Grenzwissenschaften" (#1-93, p.48. Meanwhile in Jamaica, a species of monitor lizard thought to have been extinct has been rediscovered. Zoologists of Kingston University were alerted after one of the lizards had been caught in the jungle, and found 23 more on their expedition. The monitor lizards which will grow up to 1.5m/5 ft, had no natural enemies until Europeans discovered the island, they ate them, and the dogs they brought with them did the rest. In 1940, the last reserve of the creatures was converted into an US Army Base, and it was thought that none had survived. Despite the fact that they still lived, there seem to be too few of them to grant survival, zoologists fear. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung April 28, 1993, p.N2)

#### MARINE LIFE

- The Japanese will lift the global ban on whaling and return to killing whales, according to Bild Stuttgart, Feb 3, p.13 ● Aydin, the beluga whale who escaped from his aquarium of Laspi in the Ukraine has returned to the Turkish harbour of Gerze, where he had already made friends when he first escaped in 1992. (Osnabrücker Zeitung April 16, p.6, Stuttgarter Zeitung, Apr 16, p.18, Eßlinger Zeitung, Apr 6, p.14)
- Giant crabs with a diameter of 2 m, weighing 15 kilo, have appeared in the nets of Norwegian fishermen. One, Bjarne Hansen from Bugöynes, held one up for the press to photograph. Biologists say it is a Russian species which invades new grounds, not a mutant due to nuclear poisoning of the sea. They were introduced to the Kola Peninsula by Soviet scientists in the 60s and are called king's crabs. Steinar Olsen, Marine Research Institute, Bergen, says the crabs have spread along the coast to Tromsø and will wander further south. Nobody knew yet if their effect on the ecology were a positive or negative one. (Welt, Apr 16, p.12; Rheinpfalz Apr 17).
- US-biologists found that leatherback turtles have definite migration routes through the sea and can dive down to 1000 m. In the Pacific, they follow submarine trenches. It is hoped that mapping the routes could protect the turtles when fishing at certain times and areas will be banned (Welt Apr 16, p.9). These turtles have sometimes been mistaken for sea serpents.
- Rock carvings 7000 to 9000 years old have been discovered on Söröya Island, northern Norway. According to "New Scientist", they show elks, whales, birds, and fishermen in their canoes angling halibuts (Rheinpfalz Apr 20, Stuttgarter Zeitung and Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 20 April).
- Several shark attacks were reported in June. On June 1, and in mid-June, swimmers were attacked by a shark in Hongkong harbour (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 or 14 June 93). On June 5, a mother of two was killed in front of her husband's eyes by a great white shark north of Tasmania. On June 9 or 10, 31-year-old John Ford was attacked while diving at Byron Bay south of Brisbane, Australia. He managed to save his wife. After the attack became public, the usual slaughter started, one of the fishermen, Ron Boggis, claims to have seen the great white shark with Ford still in his mouth. He said: "It was a gigantic shark, I believe I will never see a larger one". (Stuttgarter Zeitung, June 11, 93, p.16; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, June 11, 93, p.11) The magazine Stern (June 17, 1993) has a longer article on the Australian attacks and says that Ford was diving near a seal colony, where sharks are known to eat the diseased seals. There is a warning sign not to dive there, which Ford ignored. It somewhat sensationally adds the shark had the size of a lorry.
- In 1991, a coelacanth was caught at Quelimane, Mosambique (Tauchen, April 1992, p. 12) - so this is another coelacanth found outside of the usual Comores habitat.

ARCAEOLOGY: ● A South African archaeologist believes he has found the remains of a Phoenician ship at Cape Town, Amateur researcher O'Sullivan believes the cedar log which was excavated in 1880 and dated to an age of 1875 years was the mast of a Phoenician galley. It was found in a dry river bed some distance from the coast. It is believed the Phoenicians sailed around Africa 600 BC, and Abbé Breuil has identified African rock paintings as showing ancient ships. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, March 30, 1993, p. 10).